

A new species of *Mamestra* from Taiwan
(Lepidoptera, Noctuidae, Hadeninae)

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The genus *Mamestra* OCHSENHEIMER, 1816 (= *Barathra* HÜBNER, 1821, sensu HAMPSON, 1905) has so far been represented by a single species, *M. brassicae* (LINNAEUS, 1758), type species of the genus and a well-known pest of crops, in Eurasia. I have found a remarkable new species of this genus from Taiwan, which is described below.

Mamestra tayulingensis sp. n. (Fig. 1)

HOLOTYPE : ♂, Taiwan, Hualien Hsien, Tayuling (2600 m), 28-31. iii. 1981 (H. YOSHIMOTO leg.), preserved in the National Science Museum (Nat. Hist.), Tokyo.



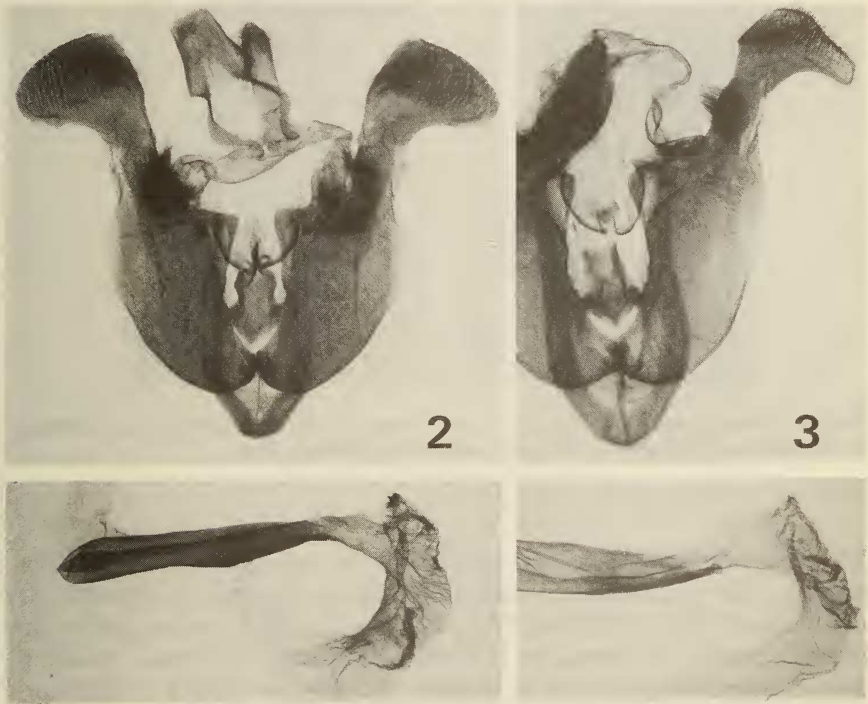
Fig. 1. *Mamestra tayulingensis* sp. n., ♀, paratype.

PARATYPE : 1 ♀, the same locality as holotype, 2-4. v. 1984 (H. YOSHIMOTO leg. & coll.

Both specimens were captured at light.

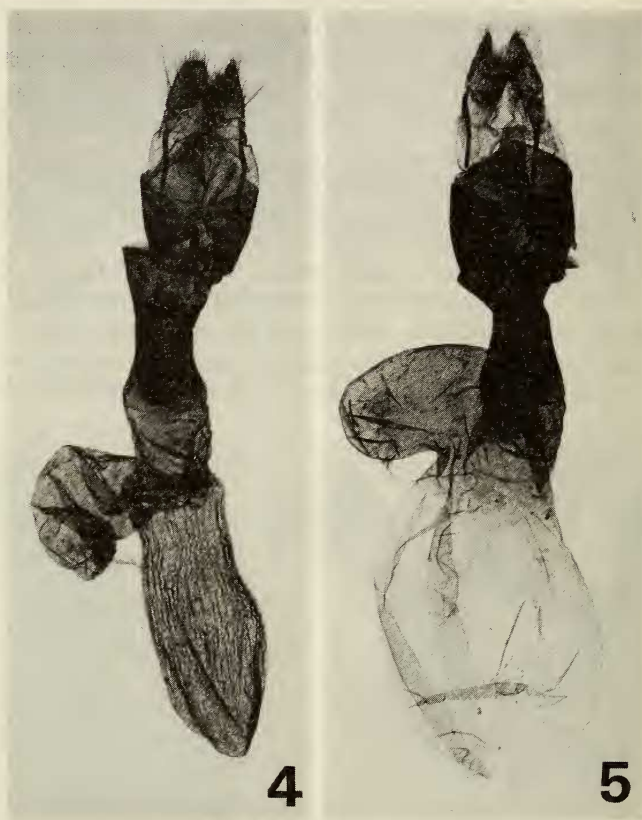
DESCRIPTION : ♂♀. Expanse 42-43 mm, length of forewing 20-21 mm. Antennae minutely ciliate in male, filiform in female. Head and thorax grey ; metathoracic crests strongly mixed with white. Abdomen grey, with weak crests on the 2nd and 3rd segments. Forewing grey, scattered with yellow scales, ante- and postmedian lines dark, the latter strongly serrate above vein 2 ; space below cell between ante- and postmedian lines dark grey, narrower above dorsum ; orbicular and reniform pale, not clearly defined ; subterminal line yellow and waved. Hindwing pale, broadly edged with dark brown ; discal spot faint.

♂ genitalia (Fig. 2) : Very similar to those of *M. brassicae* (Fig. 3), but the proportions of valva different : clavus not so high, costal bunch of hairs located more basally, and cucullus much broader. Aedeagus and everted vesica as in *brassicae*, but the conical spine near base of vesica a little stouter.



Figs. 2-3. Male genitalia of *Mamestra* from Taiwan. 2 : *M. tayulingensis* sp. n., holotype. 3 : right valva and aedeagus of *M. brassicae* (LINNAEUS), Lushan spa, Nantou Hsien.

♀ genitalia (Fig. 4) : Hardly separable from those of *brassicae* (Fig. 5), but the ductus bursae possibly less constricted.



Figs. 4-5. Female genitalia of *Mamestra* from Taiwan. 4 : *M. tayulingensis* sp. n., paratype. 5 : *M. brassicae* (LINNAEUS), Chunyang, near Wushe, Nantou Hsien.

The genus *Mamestra* is characterized by having a stout claw on the foretibia, and has so far been known to consist of three species from the holarctic. *M. configurata* WALKER, 1856 and *M. curialis* (SMITH, 1888) are confined to the Nearctic region. *M. brassicae* is widely distributed in Eurasia including Taiwan. *M. tayulingensis* sp. n. is easily distinguished from it by the more greyish forewing without brownish tone and by the more obscure maculation, and is considered to be restricted to the high mountainous zone in Taiwan.

Unlike *brassicae* this species may be univoltine, the moth appearing in the spring.

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